

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A device for emitting powder, comprising:

a casing, said casing comprising at least one aperture configured to emit powder therethrough;

a cylindrical chamber, defined by a straight wall of circular cross-section, disposed in said casing, said chamber having a proximal end and a distal end, said chamber comprising a ring circumferentially coupled to an inner surface of said chamber, ~~said chamber configured to receive a powder capsule containing the powder;~~

a powder capsule disposed in said chamber;

a substantially longitudinal prong, comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery, disposed in said casing;

a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;

a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong, running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong, and terminating at the sharp puncturing point; and

a substantially planar face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge, a distal end of the substantially planar face terminating at an edge opposite the sharp puncturing point and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong; and

wherein the substantially longitudinal prong creates an opening in said powder capsule by forming a hanging chad in said powder capsule, the hanging chad having a free end formed by the sharp puncturing point and the primary cutting edge, and a hinge coupled to said powder capsule formed by the substantially planar face and the edge.

69. (Currently Amended) A device for emitting powder, comprising:

a casing, said casing comprising at least one aperture configured to emit powder therethrough;

a cylindrical chamber, defined by a straight wall of circular cross-section, disposed in said casing, said chamber having a proximal end and a distal end, said chamber comprising a

ring circumferentially coupled to an inner surface of said chamber, ~~said chamber configured to receive a powder capsule containing the powder;~~

a powder capsule disposed in said chamber;

a substantially longitudinal prong, comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery, disposed in said casing;

a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;

a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong, running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong, and terminating at the sharp puncturing point;

a substantially planar face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge, a distal end of the substantially planar face terminating at an edge opposite the sharp puncturing point and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong; and

wherein the ~~prong is configured to form~~ substantially planar face and the edge form a hanging chad in a wall of the powder capsule, wherein the powder capsule has a longitudinal axis substantially parallel to the prong and a minor axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the hanging chad being opened to an angle of at least 30 degrees with respect to the minor axis.

70. (Previously presented) The device of claim 69, wherein the hanging chad is opened to an angle between 30 and 45 degrees with respect to the minor axis.

71. (New) A device for emitting powder, comprising:

a casing, said casing comprising at least one aperture configured to emit powder therethrough;

a powder capsule disposed in said casing;

a puncturing device, disposed in said casing, for puncturing said powder capsule, wherein said puncturing device comprises,

a substantially longitudinal prong comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery,

a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in said powder capsule,

a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong and terminating at the sharp puncturing point,

a face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge, a distal end of the face terminating at an edge opposite the sharp puncturing point, and wherein the prong creates an opening in said powder capsule by forming a hanging chad in said powder capsule, the hanging chad having a free end formed by the sharp puncturing point and the primary cutting edge, and a hinge coupled to said powder capsule formed by the face and the edge.

72. (New) A device for emitting powder, comprising:

a casing, said casing comprising at least one aperture configured to emit powder therethrough;

a powder capsule disposed in said casing;

a puncturing device, disposed in said casing, for puncturing said powder capsule, wherein said puncturing device comprises,

a substantially longitudinal prong comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery,

a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule,

a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong and terminating at the sharp puncturing point,

a face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge, a distal end of the face terminating at an edge opposite the sharp puncturing point, and

wherein the face and the edge form a hanging chad in a wall of said powder capsule, wherein said powder capsule has a longitudinal axis substantially parallel to the prong and a minor axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the hanging chad being opened to an angle of at least 30 degrees with respect to the minor axis.

73. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the prong further comprises a base coupled to the proximal end of the prong.

74. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the primary cutting edge is sharp.

75. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the primary cutting edge is jagged.

76. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the primary cutting edge is serrated.

77. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the face has a concave curvature.

78. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the prong is tapered so that the distal end of the prong is smaller than the proximal end of the prong, to facilitate removing the prong from the powder capsule.
79. (New) The device of claim 71, further comprising an angled surface disposed on the distal end of the prong, the angled surface having a distal end terminating at the sharp puncturing point and a proximal end terminating at the edge.
80. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the puncturing device is made of metal.
81. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the puncturing device is made of ceramic.
82. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the puncturing device is made of plastic.
83. (New) The device of claim 71, further comprising:
a plurality of longitudinal faces and a plurality of longitudinal edges disposed on the periphery of the prong between the primary cutting edge and the face, and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong.
84. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is four.
85. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is two.
86. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is four.
87. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is two.
88. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a pentagon.
89. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a triangle.
90. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is sharp.
91. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is jagged.
92. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is serrated.

93. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is blunt.
94. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces is substantially planar.
95. (New) The device of claim 83, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces has a concave curvature.
96. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein said puncturing device comprises:
a base; and
another substantially longitudinal prong, wherein said substantially longitudinal prong and said another substantially longitudinal prong are coupled to said base to form a U-shape.
97. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the prong further comprises a base coupled to the proximal end of the prong.
98. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the primary cutting edge is sharp.
99. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the primary cutting edge is jagged.
100. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the primary cutting edge is serrated.
101. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the face has a concave curvature.
102. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the prong is tapered so that the distal end of the prong is smaller than the proximal end of the prong, to facilitate removing the prong from the powder capsule.
103. (New) The device of claim 72, further comprising an angled surface disposed on the distal end of the prong, the angled surface having a distal end terminating at the sharp puncturing point and a proximal end terminating at the edge.
104. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the puncturing device is made of metal.
105. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the puncturing device is made of ceramic.
106. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the puncturing device is made of plastic.
107. (New) The device of claim 72, further comprising:

a plurality of longitudinal faces and a plurality of longitudinal edges disposed on the periphery of the prong between the primary cutting edge and the face, and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong.

108. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is four.

109. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is two.

110. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is four.

111. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is two.

112. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a pentagon.

113. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a triangle.

114. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is sharp.

115. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is jagged.

116. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is serrated.

117. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is blunt.

118. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces is substantially planar.

119. (New) The device of claim 107, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces has a concave curvature.

120. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein said puncturing device comprises:

a base; and

another substantially longitudinal prong, wherein said substantially longitudinal prong and said another substantially longitudinal prong are coupled to said base to form a U-shape.